

AGAWAM, MASS.
Agawam Center Library
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Agawam 4, Mass. 01001

Agawam

Independent



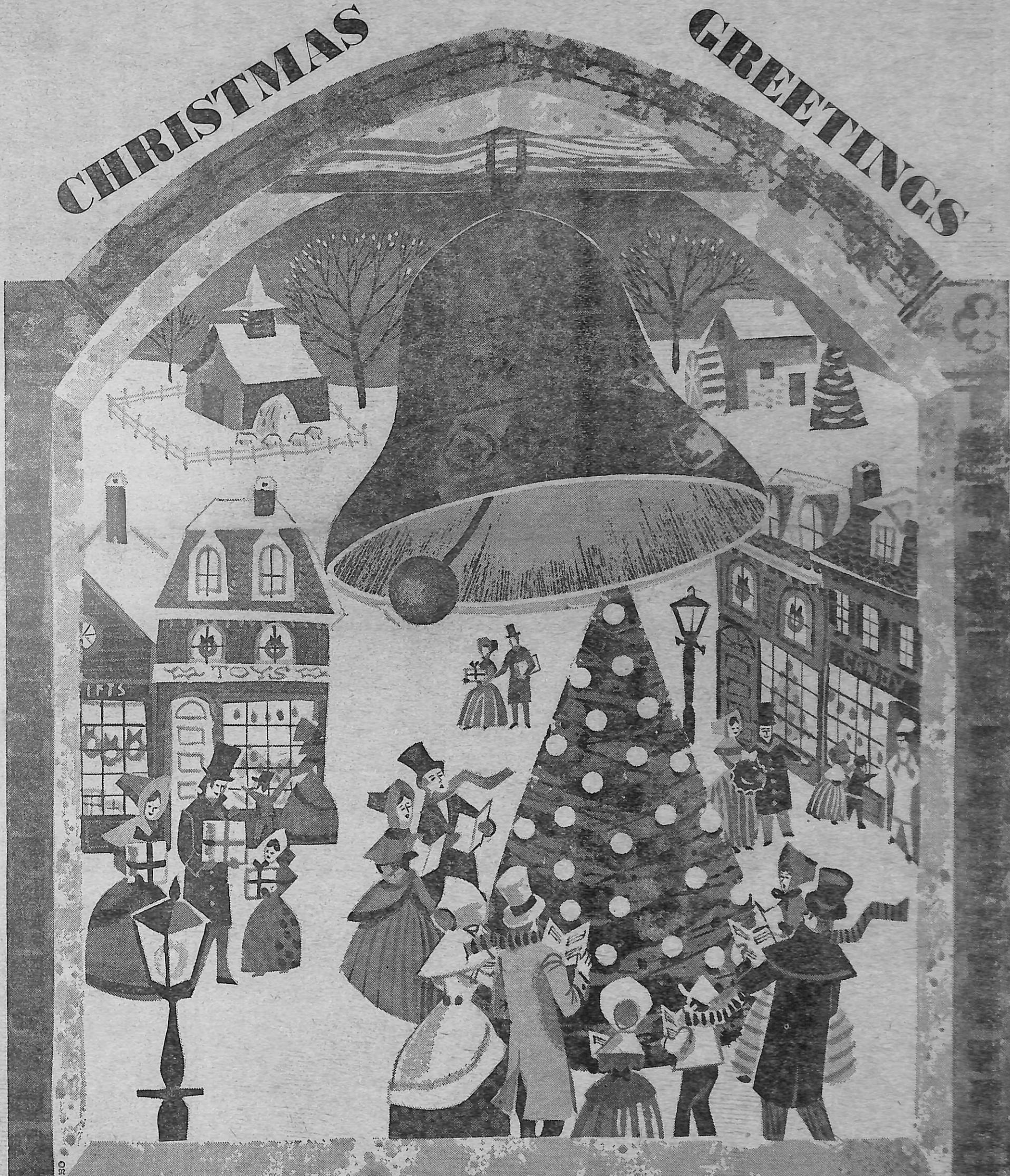
Telephone 788-8996

Vol. 11, No. 37.

• 4

AGAWAM, MASS. 01001: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1968

By Subscription \$1.50 Per Year — 5c Per Copy



Gather round the festive tree, sing the songs of joy and cheer, be glad of heart and spirit, too . . .
it's Christmas! In the fine tradition of the season, we extend greetings, simple and sincere,
to our friends and customers. Happy holidays, best wishes, and many, many thanks.

THE
Agawam Independent

Sugar - Rita - Randy - Bill - Ann - Edith - Anna - Peg - Bob - Jo-Ann - Nickie

CHURCH NEWS

AGAWAM METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill Street, Agawam
Rev. Kenneth Thornton, Minister
Mrs. Herbert Binns, Organist

Mrs. Marshall Keyes,
Sanctuary Choir Director
Mrs. Kenneth Alexander,
Junior/Youth Choir Director
Friday—11 a.m.—Service of
Worship at East Longmeadow
Nursing Home; 6:15 p.m.—Bowling
Teams at Westside.

Saturday: 8 p.m. Couples Club Smorgasbord Christmas Party. . . everyone is asked to bring a 50c gift. . . for information contact Dora Dawson or Pat Roy.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Sunday. . . Church at Worship... Nursery for infants... new members received... no church school; 6:30 p.m. All Church Pageant . . . Everyone is invited.

Tuesday: 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. . . The public is invited.

Wednesday: A very Merry Christmas to one and all.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Benjamin Lockhart, Pastor
Nancy Lund,
Organist and Choir Director
Mrs. Ruth Daniels, Organist
Mrs. Barbara Briggs,
Church Secretary

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at church.

Friday: 7 p.m. Senior BYF Cabinet meet; 7:30 p.m. Senior BYF meet to make cookies for distribution.

Saturday: 6:30 p.m. Senior BYF and Alden Street BYF meet to go caroling in the community with a party to follow at the church.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship — Rev. Lockhart will preach and choir will sing; 10:30 a.m. Church school for all ages; 6 p.m. Senior and Junior High BYF's meet at church.

Tuesday: 11 p.m. The first Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held in the new Sanctuary. All friends and members of the church are invited to attend. The Choirs will have special music and the Pastor will guide the worship service.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. Floyd C. Bryan, Minister
Mrs. A. G. Toussaint,
Minister of Music

Thursday: 12 noon, Ladies Aid Society meeting Christmas program.

Friday: 7 p.m. Boy Scout meeting; 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal.

Saturday—8:45 a.m. Intermediate Choir rehearsal; 9:30 Junior Choir rehearsal.

Sunday: 7 p.m. Christmas Pageant presented by the Pilgrim Fellowship under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Hastings. Everyone to bring a gift wrapper in white papers, to be distributed at the Monson State Hospital.

Tuesday: 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Mr. Bryan preaching.

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. All Church meeting to approve the budget.

Sunday evening, Dec. 22nd, a Christmas Pageant will be presented by the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship at 7 in the Sanetuary. The program will include most of the familiar carols and a Candle

Light Ceremony as part of the Christmas Story.

The children are asked to attend with their parents and bring their donations of White Gifts for the Monson State Hospital. Gifts are to be wrapped in white paper and labeled man, woman, boy or girl.

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 11 Tuesday evening in the Sanctuary.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

21 North Westfield St.
Rev. Arthur N. Sweeney, Pastor

Thursday—6:30 Cherub choir rehearsal; 7 p.m. senior choir rehearsal.

Sunday—10 a.m. Worship Service; Fourth Sunday in Advent. There is church school this day, but parents and children will worship together the first half of the service except for kindergarten and nursery which remain in class.

Monday — 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Church School for grades 7, 8 and 9.

Tuesday — 11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service of worship. All are most welcome to attend.

Sunday And Christmas Services At St. David's

Services this Sunday at St. David's Episcopal Church at 8, 10 a.m., and 7 p.m. At the 10 a.m. service special anthems by the choirs emphasizing the theme of Advent.

The Christmas services will be: Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 7 p.m.—Children's Service of Lessons and Carols; Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 11:30 p.m.—Choral Christmas Eucharist; Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, 9 a.m.—Holy Communion.

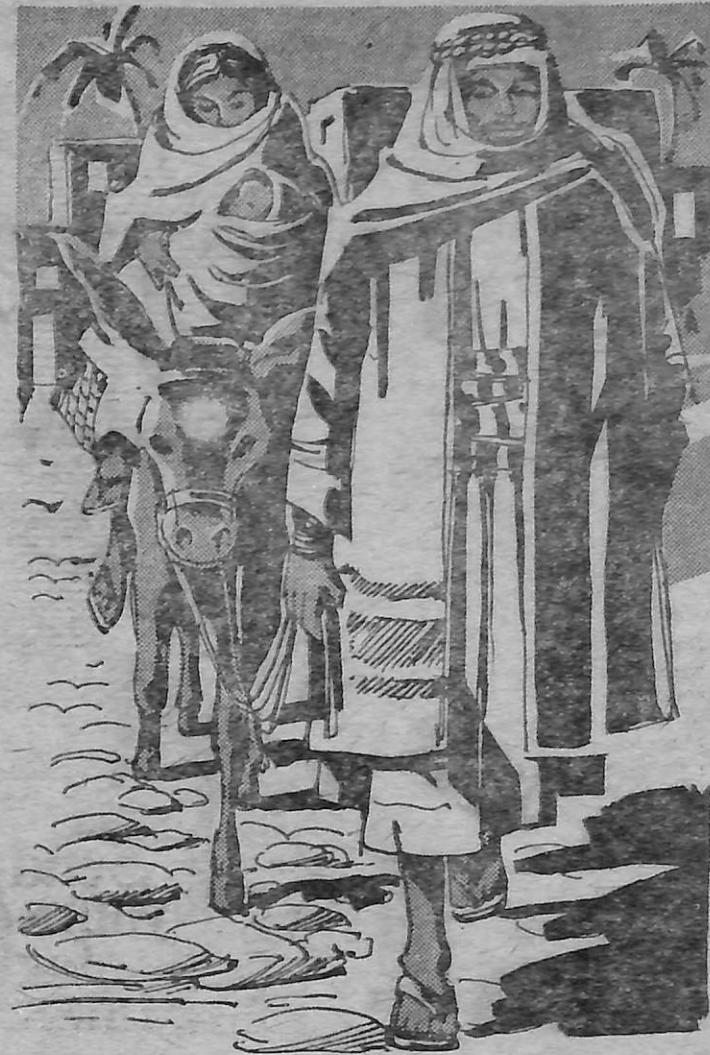
The annual Children's Christmas party, 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 28th.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. John S. Tuler, Vicar
Thursday—7 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #79 meets in parish hall.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

Rev. Walter J. Joyce
Rev. Albert Blanchard
Saturday — Confessions 4 to



When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Matthew 2: 14-15

and 7:30 Confessions.
Sunday — 7, 9 and 11 a.m.
Mass.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

Rev. Samuel Fayad, C.S.S.,
Rev. Joseph Mantia, C.S.S.

Saturday—4 to 5 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. confessions.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sundays—7, 8:30, 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Week days—7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Holy days—7 and 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays—7:30 p.m. St. Anthony Devotions.

The Twelve Days of Christmas were set aside by Alfred the Great of Britain.

5:45 and 7:30 to 9 p.m.
MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday—6:45, 8, 9:15, 10:30,

11:45 a.m.

Tuesday—5:30 p.m., Mass followed by Miraculous Medal Novena.

ST. THERESA OF INFANT JESUS CHURCH

Rev. Paul Bernard
MASS SCHEDULE
Daily Mass—7 a.m.
Saturday—8 a.m. Mass — 4:30



Plants • Corsages
Canes • Knockers
• Roping and Mistletoe
Door Wreaths
Cemetery Boxes

Place Your Telegraph Orders Early —

KEEFE FLORIST

266 WALNUT ST., AGAWAM TEL. RE 4-4073



MALONE'S
Farm and Garden Center
338 SILVER ST. AGAWAM
RE 2-3965



NATIONAL SELECTED MORTICIANS

Member By Invitation

CURRAN-JONES, Inc.
FUNERAL HOME

109 MAIN STREET WEST SPRINGFIELD
Telephone RE 6-7742

**VALLEY COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

"THE CHURCH ON THE HILL"
Rev. Frank E. Dunn, Minister
Mrs. Hazel Prior, Choir Director
Mrs. John MacPherson, Organist
Mrs. Richard Orr,
Church Secretary

Sunday — 10 a.m. Morning Worship with sermon: "The Holy Light" and Sunday School classes in Dunn Community Hall; 6 p.m. Youth Group, Choir and others in Caroling program throughout the community.

Wednesday — 11:30 Annual Christmas Candlelight Service. Everyone cordially invited.

**BIBLE BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Upper Church and Second Sts.
West Springfield, Mass.
Larry Thornton, Pastor

Sunday—9:45 a.m. Bible School for all ages; 11 a.m. Morning worship service. Supervised nursery service available upstairs in the church during both Bible School and morning service; 7 p.m. Evening Service.

Wednesday — 7:30 p.m. Mid-week prayer meeting and Bible study.

(Bible Baptist Church is in fellowship with the General Assn. of Regular Baptist Churches and the American and International Councils of Christian Churches.)

**SACRED HEART.
CHURCH**

FEEDING HILLS
Rev. George Linse, C.S.S.
Rev. James Shea, C.S.S.

Saturday—4:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Confessions

Sunday—6:45, 8, 9:15, 11:30 a.m. Masses.

Tuesday—7:30 p.m. Miraculous Medal Novena Devotions.

The flower most symbolic of Christmas, the poinsettia, was named for Joel Robert Poinsett of South Carolina.

Love is a flower.



**Send yours
for
Christmas.**

"BY TELEFLORA SERVICE" — Arrangements, Poinsettias,

Flowers, Plants, Christmas Decorations, Wreaths

AGAWAM FLOWER SHOP

705 MAIN ST. TEL. 732-3427 AGAWAM
(If No Answer Call 732-1304)



In warm appreciation for
your good will and confidence we
extend to you most cordial
wishes for the Holiday Season. We welcome
this opportunity of telling you
just how much we enjoy serving you!

CHRISCOLA'S FARM EQUIPMENT

Suffield Street — Agawam

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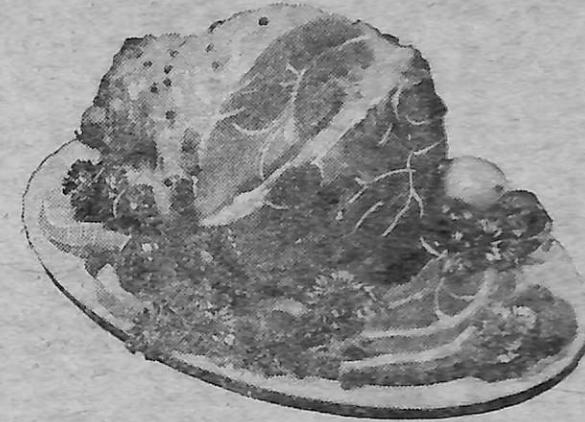
AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

768 MAIN STREET

Open 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. — Open Fri. Nites

Merry Christmas

We Have a Fine Selection of
Turkeys, Ducks and Roasting Chickens
for Your Holiday Needs!



RATH BLACK HAWK
Semi-Boneless — Fully Cooked

HAM lb. 79

• Oscar Mayer Specials •
BACON lb. 79

WEINERS All Meat lb. 69

VARIETY PACK 12 oz. 79

JONES' **SAUSAGE LINKS** lb. 39

BIG BUY OF THE WEEK

SWEET LIFE — SOLID PACK IN BRINE

WHITE TUNA

3 cans 79¢

• AS ADVERTISED ON TV •

OCEAN SPRAY
CRANBERRY COCKTAIL qt. 45

SWEET LIFE
FRUIT COCKTAIL 3 28 oz. cans \$1

SWEET LIFE—FANCY, SIFTED
PEAS 4 16 oz. cans 89¢

HOOD'S
SOUR CREAM pint 39¢

FROZEN FOODS

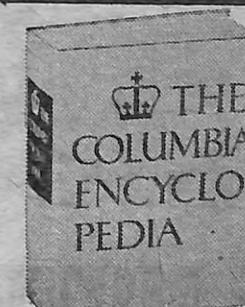
BIRDS' EYE—QUICK THAW
STRAWBERRIES 3 10 oz. pkgs. 89¢

BIRDS' EYE
COOL WHIP 2 qts. 89¢

"THE BEST ONE VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIA"
...SAYS LIFE!

THE COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

NEW SECTIONALIZED EDITION



on sale this week

section 16
...99¢

Double United Stamps Wednesday

The Agawam Independent

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THE INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING CORP.
375 Walnut Street Agawam, Mass. 01001
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HELENA M. MCLEAN, Editor
RITA M. LECOUR, Advertising
BILL CHIBA, Ourdoor Editor

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David C. Gallano and Vincent R. Caroleo



Corporate Officers:
Helena M. McLean, President; Rita M. Lecour, Treasurer.
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Vol. 11. No. 37.

Thursday, December 19, 1968

Christmas Day 1968

The magic of the Christmas season is laying its hold upon the land. On city streets silver bells ring calling on us to give help to those less fortunate. The tinsel, the lights and decorations, the holly wreaths are going up and tens of millions of children know that Santa Claus is coming to town. They hope that he will in some mysterious way visit their home in the shimmering silence of the night before Christmas.

This is a time for children, and it is a time too for all men and women in all lands to remember the wonder of the Lord's birth on the first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago. It is the power of this happening that puts magic in this season and lends the light of hope and understanding to all the world's people.

Let this Christmas be for children—may it bring them the warmth of a fire, the smell of a tree, the excitement of waiting for Santa's visit. Let it bring visions of sugar plums on Christmas eve, and above all as the hour approaches, let it bring the warmth of knowing that the babe born in Bethlehem so long ago is very close to us all this night.



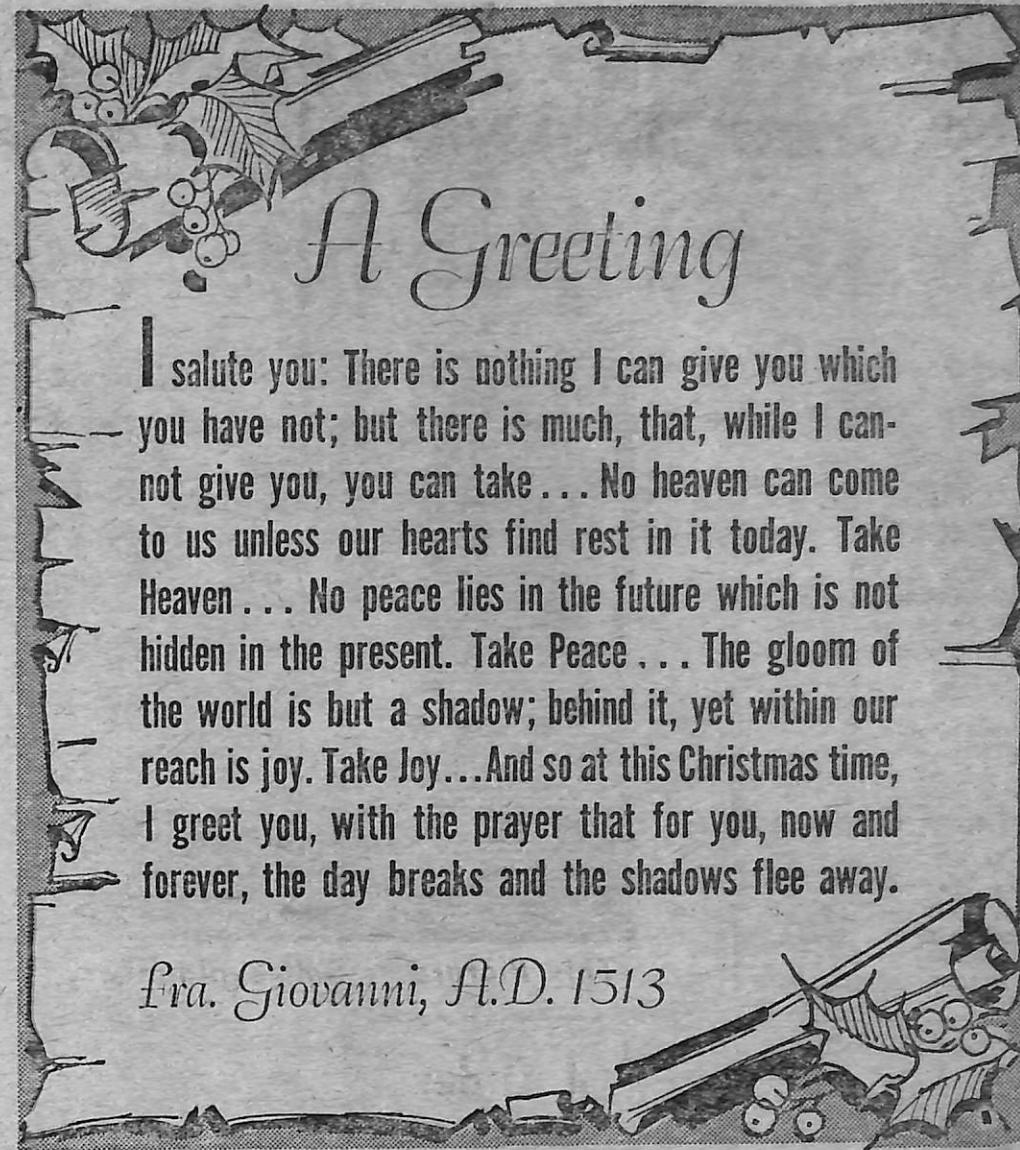
A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL!

What is Santa carrying
in his bag? All our best wishes for a
happy holiday season, plus our sincere
thanks for your confidence in us!

FEEDING HILLS OIL & GAS

1226 Springfield Street

Feeding Hills



Fra. Giovanni, A.D. 1513

Carol Singing — Popular Christmas Custom

Caroling is the custom in many different customs connected with countries throughout the world. And, there are about as many as there are countries.

Bagpipe music accompanies the

carolers in (no, not Scotland) Italy!

In England the carolers receive gifts for their efforts. "Gifts" of refreshments are often the case in America.

"Star-singers" is the name for groups of carolers in many nations. The term is taken from the pole they carry, which has a lighted star on top.

Rudyard Kipling, the author, was born Dec. 30, 1865.

"The Best in Sight"



PATRICK F. RUSSO
OPTICIANS

1421 Westfield St., W. Spfld.

(Next to S.I.S. Bank)

Tel. 734-5502

Open Tues. & Thurs. 'til 8



Sincere Christmas Wishes

*Hope your Day is wreathed with
happiness and your holiday season is one of
joy and good cheer. Merry Christmas!*

SELECTMAN and MRS. ED. CONNELLY

ARNOLD BAKERS THRIFT STORE

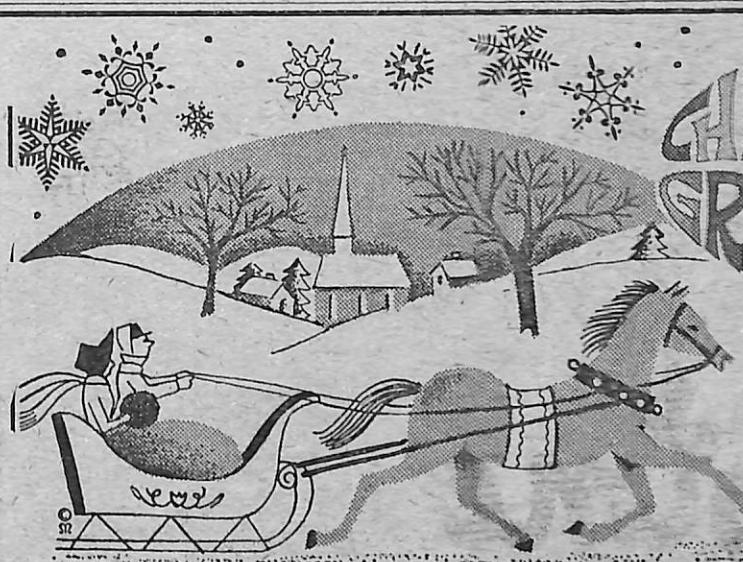
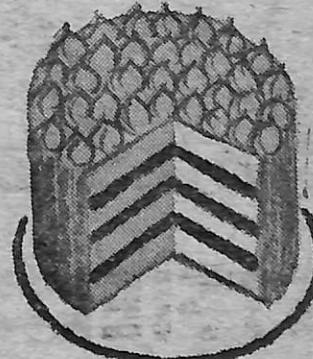
Memorial Avenue — West Springfield

NEXT TO THE RED GERTRUDE
OPPOSITE EXPOSITION GROUNDS

We Now Carry a Complete Line of
DANISH PASTRY and ASSORTED CAKES

ALONG WITH OUR REGULAR LINE OF

**BREAD, ROLLS
and COOKIES**



**CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS**

To our wonderful
customers, our
sincerest thanks,
and our wishes
for a wonderful
Christmas . . .
brimming
with laughter
and good cheer.

GALE MOTORS
LINCOLN • MERCURY • COUGAR

875 Enfield Street

Thompsonville, Conn.

Local Men Receive WHYN Promotions

The two Agawam men who form the breakfast-hour music-and-news teams on Springfield radio station WHYN have been given promotions and new responsibilities to go along with their on-the-air duties.

Ron Russell, morning news man, has been named an assistant news director for WHYN-AM, FM, and TV. Russell lives with his wife, Carol, and two children at 8 Western Dr., Agawam.

Bob Allen, morning music personality, has been named assistant to Operations Manager Phil Drumheller. Allen, the son of Selectman and Mrs. Raymond Charest, lives at 69 Hastings St., Feeding Hills. He and his wife, Judith, have one child. He has been with WHYN for eight years with time out for military service.

Another Feeding Hills resident, Derek Jarvis, is chief photographer for WHYN-TV.

Listings Wanted

MASS. - CONN.
Homes - Ranches - Business
STROUT REALTY
27 Stewart Lane - Agawam
Tel. 734-5719
Have Interested Buyers Now!

She's for the Birds



This Picture is Self-Explanatory

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Mothers of Twins Children's Yule Party Saturday

The Hampden County Mother's of Twins Club will hold their annual children's Christmas party on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 21st, from 2 to 4 in the underloft of the Christ Church Cathedral, Chestnut St., Springfield.

Co-chairmen of the event are

Mrs. Robert DiLuzio, Mrs. Richard Riley and Mrs. William Weible.

All twins of paid up members are invited. Santa will be there to distribute gifts and refreshments will be served.

George Washington, on his deathbed, said to his doctor, "I thank you for your attention; you had better not take any more trouble about me, but let me go off quietly."



Ferranti's Package Store

1122 Memorial Avenue West Springfield
Free Delivery • 732-0505



**GREETINGS
OF THE
SEASON**

Here is sentiment genuinely felt... May joy, health and happiness be yours this Christmas

LAURIENTE NURSERIES, INC.

464 Main Street Agawam

merry Christmas

Christmas is made of snowflakes and church bells and laughter and dreams... may all of yours come true. Have a Merry Christmas.

Bay State Film Productions, Inc.

35 Springfield Street Agawam

Merry Christmas

WESTFIELD SAVINGS BANK

SPORTSMEN'S CORNER

By BILL CHIBA

Arriving with the holiday season will be the 1969 New England Sportsmen's and Camping Show in Boston's War Memorial Auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 8th, continuing for 9 days through Jan. 26th.

Ken Harrelson, Red Sox hitting ace, will head the fabulous extravaganza. New dazzling equipment, ideas, innovations for the sporting and camping enthusiasts as well as an array of spectacular talent in an exciting stage and water show, and experts to give valuable pointers.

More than 300,000 persons will converge from all corners of New England to attend this annual colorful mecca of sporting interests ranging from hunting, fishing, scuba diving, archery,

firearms, flying and parachuting, golfing, camping, travel, resorts, skiing, tobogganing, karate, snow mobiling, cycling and other activities.

This huge spectacle is three exciting shows in one—a combination of sports, camping and stage-water shows, making it the biggest indoor sports event of the year in New England.

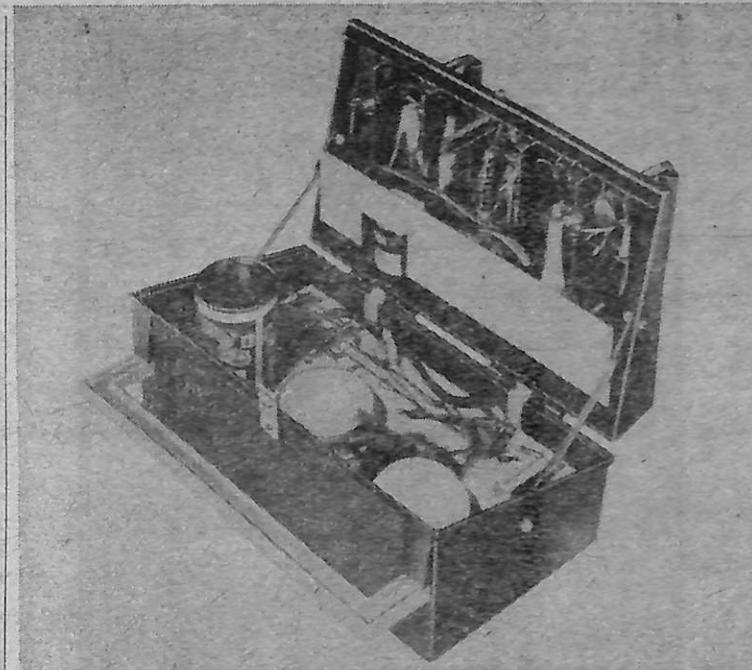
Leading sports clubs in New England will be represented in the show, national and international makers of sporting paraphernalia will have exhibits of new equipment for fishermen, hunters, campers and other sports. Experts from these clubs will be present throughout the show to impart valuable advice and tips usually unavailable from other sources.

Once In A Life Time

John Taylor of Franklin and Raymond Hersey of East Andover, New Hampshire, had a very successful trip together on Nov. 23 and 24. It all started on Saturday when John shot a bobcat. On Sunday he got a 7-point, 150-lb. buck, and his partner shot a doe weighing 130 lbs. They were in the Tucker Mountain area of Andover. While John was heading back out of the woods to pick up a snow vehicle to haul out the deer, a bear appeared on the scene and Ray shot it.

A Fisherman's Dream

The Plano Moulding Co., of Plano, Ill., has come out with a



tackle box that all boat fishermen have been looking for. The Plano Boat-Tote clamps on the gunwale of a boat, keeping it out of the way of the fisherman's feet and putting terminal tackle at his fingertips. It eliminates need for having lures with unprotected hooks hanging on the boat or lying on the seat.

The BOAT-TOTE box features include: adjustable hooks clamp on gunwale; adjustable straps allow box to open at any angle and accommodate any position on the boat; baits of all sizes hang from top; storage space for large baits, other equipment under middle divider tray; covered compartments for snaps, swivels, sinkers, jigs and small baits; convenient plier storage, snelled hook and lure holder. You still have time to order one from

the Plano Co. for Christmas.

I wish to extend a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the many readers of this column, Bill.

The Old Timer

"Conscience is that inner voice that warns you that the man in the unmarked car trailing you is a State Trooper."

BY BOB BREWSTER
Outdoor Editor,
Mercury Outboards**FRIGID FISH**

The hard-to-explain disappearance of game fish during the winter months can be most perplexing, especially when the fishin' itch in a guy's casting arm doesn't respect a seasonal layoff.

For many fishermen, cold weather and lack of prospects are tolerated without too much complaint. But, ask the experts at Mercury Outboards, what's a man going to do when he still wants to go fishing, regardless of the elements?

It's simple, they say. Just bundle up and go!

Fish, being cold-blooded creatures, are permitted by nature to maintain bodily functions at a speed regulated by the surrounding temperatures. The colder it gets, the more sluggish they become, and the less food is required to sustain life.

Yet they do feed on a limited scale, and can be induced to hit a baited hook on occasion.

Drop your offering in the deepest holes, where the water will be warmest. Bottom springs, when known, are excellent spots. Fresh water entering from tributaries carries oxygen and stirs up the frigid lake in a localized area, creating another preferred fish location.

Use baits and lures as if fish were half asleep . . . not so much out of respect for the slumbering attitudes of the fish, but to give them a chance to catch up if they desire.

There's one alternative to this slow motion angling, observe the Mercury lads. Head for Florida or other parts south where Ol' Man Winter is a bit more lenient toward his fishin' brethren.

Holiday Yule Tree German Descent?

The Christmas tree, now almost a universal symbol, probably came to America from Germany, although tradition has it that Christmas trees originated in Egypt. The palm tree is supposed to put forth a branch every month, and a spray of this tree, with 12 shoots on it, was used in Egypt.

German writers mention the tree as early as 1605. The German prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, introduced the Christmas tree in England when he had a tree for his daughter.

BK Enterprises

Tel. 734-5719
27 Stewart Lane - Agawam
IMPORTERS
Specialty Advertising
Executive Gifts
Real Estate Broker - Notary Public

Free Delivery

BEER

WINE

LIQUOR

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
NEW FULL LINE OF
IMPORTED WINES

CENTRAL PACKAGE STORE

WEST SPRINGFIELD

dial 733-6221 AGAWAM

52 RIVER ST

**Merry Christmas
and
Joyous New Year**

A loud cheer for the New Year and all the good things that are sure to come for all our wonderful friends!

YALE-GENTON
RIVERDALE STREET
WEST SPRINGFIELD

**Greetings
for
Christmas**

One of the real joys of Yuletide is the chance to put aside the routine and customs of daily business and with sincerity wish our friends a very Merry Christmas.

from: Glen - Howie - Richie - Bob and Harry

EXPOSITION SERVICE GARAGE

634 Main Street - Agawam

**CHRISTMAS
TIME**

As the Christmas bells gladden your heart, we wish you a Happy Holiday.

**Marceeno's
Barber Shop**

332 Walnut Street
Agawam



AHS Select 12th

Musical Production

Plans for this year's musical production at Agawam High have progressed with the selection of the show "How To Succeed In Business Without Trying."

Thursday — Agawam YMCA December Board of Directors meeting will be held at the New Central YMCA building on Chestnut St., it was announced by James Loomis, chairman. This will be a good opportunity to see the new building.

Friday — Mario Sakellis, executive director will meet with the Western District Youth Directors at the Westfield YMCA for training and program planning.

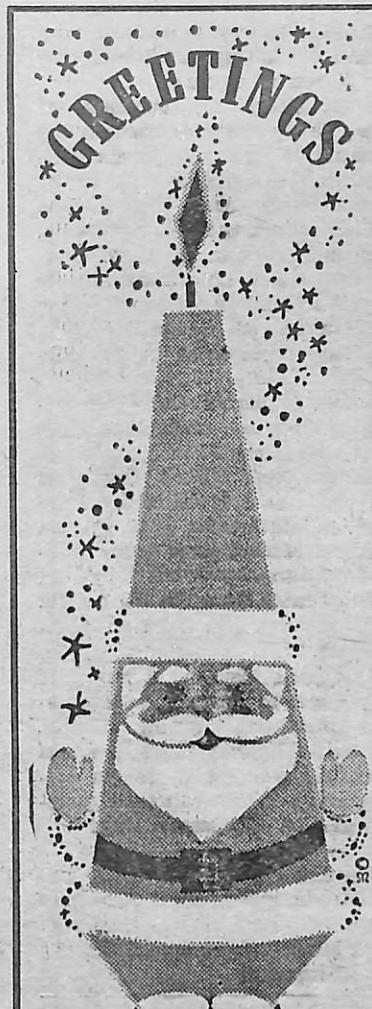
Also on Friday at the South School there will be a Junior High Dance with a local band providing the music. The dance will be from 7:30-10 p.m.

Friday night the regularly scheduled family swim at the West Springfield YMCA. Last week's was attended by over 70 people.

The YMCA office will be closed on Wednesday, Christmas Day. On behalf of the staff and the Board of Directors the 'Y' wishes everyone a very Holy and Merry Christmas.

Registrations for the boys and girls gym classes which will start at the Agawam High School gym on Saturday, Jan. 4th, are now being taken at the "Y" office. Please register early.

A special CHRISTMAS VACATION program has been planned for boys and girls in grades 3-6. The date is Friday, Dec. 27th from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This program will be at the new Central YMCA. Parents must transport their own youngsters. The program will consist of gym, movies, a magician, swimming and lots of fun. Milk will be provided by the YMCA. To register for this program call the Agawam YMCA.



We'll bask in
the warm after-glow
of Christmas
the year round
because of
your friendship!

DE PALMA
MOTOR SALES

959 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills

AHS Select 12th

Dolls Thru' The Centuries More Than Just Playthings

Dolls have many personalities...not all soft, cuddly and lovable.

Dolls come in images of many modern-day gods and goddesses, including the doll that mimics the famous skinny English fashion model.

There are swaggering teen boy-dolls to match swinger girl dolls...grim-faced GI dolls complete with all the familiar, all-too-familiar, weapons of war.

But the modern-day doll is primarily a playtoy, to simulate the grand world of grown-ups, to let little girls, or little boys, escape the everyday world and its pressures. Not so, with dolls of olden times. They may have been doted on, and cradled, but they were given special respect not always given modern dolls.

Precious puppet of childhood days, the doll is one of the oldest of human institutions. In ancient remains of earlier societies, dolls of clay, wood, bone and ivory, were found in children's graves.

It is known that in earlier centuries, those dolls used as playthings were connected with im-

projects at Agawam High but have been expanded in scope to include much larger participation as an all school activity.

ages of saints.

In many aborigine groups, dolls are made as the image of a deity and are considered sacred. They are entrusted to the children as part of their religious instruction.

In Japan, dolls were created as "scapegoats"—they were dressed, and fed, and generally treated as though they were alive to ward off evil from the families' children.

Among the Hindus and Moham-

medans where infant marriages prevail, elaborately-dressed dolls with many belongings, are presented to the girl at marriage.

In Africa, the use of dolls as toys is complicated by the fact that they are often used for magic rites and are often kept as household fetishes.

The word "wassail" is derived from the Old English *wæs hal*—a toast meaning "be whole" or "be thou well."

Cheerful Christmas Wishes

Here's wishing
a really wonderful
holiday season
for you and yours.

RIVERSIDE PARK

(EDWARD J. CARROLL, Owner-Manager)

An Agawam Institution with an
Internationally Famous Reputation

STATEMENT FROM Western Bank AND TRUST COMPANY																																																																																																																													
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The History Of Christmas Gifts

NEW YORK (NAPS) — While millions of Americans give flowers by wire, perfume by the bottle and even gems (by gosh!), few among those who give and receive the gifts this Christmas will realize what a long and delightful history the custom of gift-giving has.

It was the Three Wise Men who gave the first Christmas gifts in history, although the earliest Christians refused to exchange presents. To them, the custom was a heathen one — because gift-giving played a prominent role in many pagan festivals.

In time, they accepted the exchange of gifts as an expression of rejoicing — and legends about the bringers of gifts began to grow.

In time, they accepted the exchange of gifts as an expression of rejoicing — and legends about

the bringers of gifts began to grow.

The jolly gent we know as St. Nick, for example, is based on the real-life St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) in the fourth century. Legendary even in his own time for his generosity, and his love of children, he is said to have gone on many a mysterious journey carrying secret gifts to the poor. On one of these expeditions, so the story goes, he dropped a bag of gold down a chimney. It fell by accident into a stocking hung up to dry by the fire — and prompted generations of hopeful children to hang up their hosiery, too.

Giving to the poor remained a vital part of Christmas celebrations in the centuries to come. In England, on the day after Christmas, clergymen used to open the church alms-boxes and distribute the money to the needy. Later, it became customary to give boxes of money on that day to people who had served you during the year. Dec. 26 is still known as Boxing Day in Britain.

The custom of bestowing gifts on friends and family members

only for heathen.

The stern Puritans brought their distrust of Christmas merriment to New England's shores as well; in 1659, the observance of Christmas in Massachusetts became a penal offense!

On the other hand, fun-loving Dutch settlers had already brought "Sinter Klass" to New Amsterdam. Later, a German colony moved to Pennsylvania along with their gift-bringer, Christkindlein — who gave us the name "Kris Kringle". Other immigrant groups contributed their own legends and customs of Christmas giving. And in 1822, a Presbyterian divinity professor named Clement C. Moore sat down and combined many of these elements into a rather well-known poem beginning "Twas the night before Christmas . . ."

The "Visit from St. Nicholas" described by Dr. Moore was modest in comparison to some of St. Nick's later trips. Americans have long been generous Yuletide givers. Seamen used to bring their families rare and costly presents gathered from the Orient: spices, silks, china and teakwood. St. Nicholas was the patron saint of sailors as well as children.

When it comes to flowers and other gifts, the ladies are not neglected. Though florists are especially busy during Christmas, many of them have a special arrangement whereby flowers can be sent to loved ones once a month. In this way — the holiday spirit can be enjoyed throughout the year by those closest to you. Any shop with an FTD emblem provides this delightful service.

Flowers are just one item in the well over \$27 billion a year spent on Christmas presents of all kinds.

Many of these gifts are wrapped with the aid of Christmas seals, yet few Americans have any notion of when or where these originated. They were first used in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1904 — the brainstorm of a postal clerk named Holbøll, who dreamed them up as a benefit for a children's hospital.

The gift-giving customs of many lands form an interesting contrast to our own. Greek children rustle up their own gifts: on Christmas Day they go the rounds collecting raisins, walnuts, figs and sweets. In Newfoundland an important Christmas gift is — fish! Local fishermen fish for the church on Christmas Day, donating their catch to the parish.

Some countries enjoy Christmas giving so much that they do it twice: the French exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the children are visited by Pere Noel on Christmas Eve. Italian children receive their main presents on January 6, but they and their parents draw for little gifts on Christmas Eve from an "Urn of Fate."

And Icelanders must hurry if they want to unwrap their presents Christmas morning. Almost the entire holiday must be spent in church services — for in Iceland they want to unwrap their presents of light on Christmas Day!

We are all familiar with the Christmas story, but how many remember the names of the three Wise Men? ... Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar!

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was popularized in England by King Henry VII, whose services are used extensively during the Christmas season. Henry's granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth I, made the most of this custom, she depended on Christmas gifts to replenish her wardrobe, and made it very clear to courtiers that they had better come across handsomely on Christmas Day. Court records show that the Archbishop of Canterbury gave her \$200 every Yule for clothes.

Court ladies presented her with the first silk stockings worn in Europe, and even the royal dustman (garbage collector) came through with two bolts of fine linen for the royal lingerie.

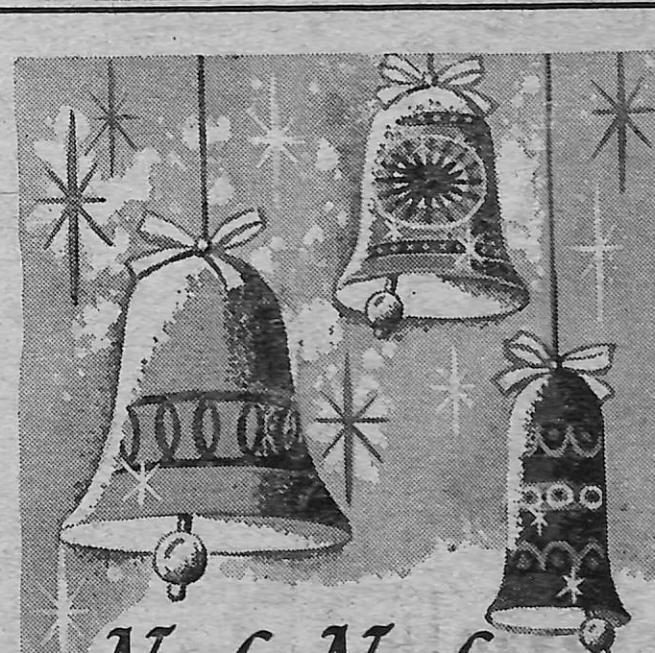
Father Christmas, as the English counterpart of Santa is called, rode high for another 40 years after the reign of Good Queen Bess. Then the Puritans took over. They abolished him and his gifts, and indeed all Christmas celebrations, as fit



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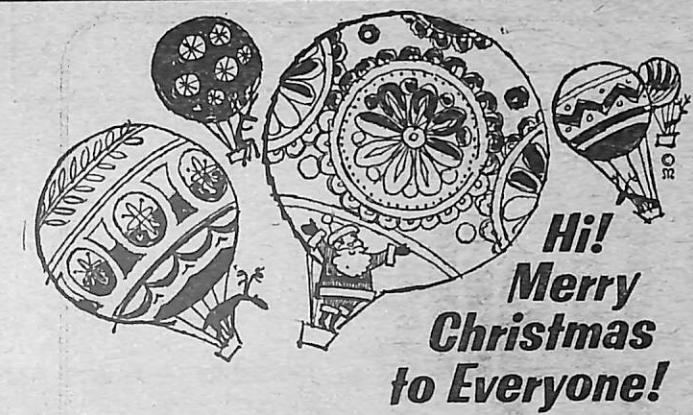
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Christmas
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good friends . . .
time, too, to count our
blessings. One of
the greatest of these is
the friendship of those
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JAMES MORAN, Prop.

Troop 89 Holds Court of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 89 held its first Court of Honor for the 1968-69 season last Thursday evening. Highest award of the evening that of Life Scout was presented to Christopher Fuchs, Carl Roberts and his cousins, James and Steven Roberts, by Ramapogue District Scout Executive Herkey Foster, who, as Assistant Scout Executive of Pioneer Valley Council, modeled the new uniform for adult scouts.

Star Scout award was presented to Roland Dupre, Robert Gagnon, John Pavelesky, Jr., by Ross Marble, Ramapogue District Commissioner; First Class awards went to Steven Richter, Gary Robinson and Kim Cosman; Second Class, to Steven Thorsen, and Michael Bordutha. New Scouts entering the Troop as Tenderfoot Scouts were: David Bodurtha, Roger Cogswell, Roger Gagnon, Scott Murawski, Gary Sypteras, and Stephen Bonacker. These awards were presented by Scoutmaster and Committeeen.

Merit Badges were presented to:

William Andrews, camping, rowing; Randall Cushing, Canoeing, archery, personal fitness; Gary Cwikla, fishing, first aid; Bruce Foster, swimming, lifesaving, camping, cooking; Christopher Fuchs, camping, rowing, home repairs, personal fitness; Robert Gagnon, canoeing; David Gingras, basketry, woodcarving, small boat sailing; Robert Kelley, first aid, woodcarving, nature, rowing, cooking; John

Pavelesky, Jr., camping, personal fitness, home repairs; Michael Richards, camping, first aid, swimming; Ronald Richard, archery; David Richter, first aid, woodcarving, cooking; Steven Richter, canoeing, first aid; Carl Roberts, camping, rowing, personal fitness; James Roberts, camping, rowing, personal fitness, home repairs; Steven Roberts, camping, personal fitness, rowing; Gary Robinson, camping, personal fitness, swimming; Joseph Sorensen, lifesaving, camping; Kevin St. John, camping, rowing.

Translate 'Adeste Fidelis' 120 Times

"Adeste Fidelis" (O Come, All Ye Faithful) is one of the best-known Christmas carols in the world. It has been translated into more than 120 languages and dialects.

Some scholars believe it may have been known to Francis of Assisi and that it might have been sung while the people gathered around the first creches.

Still others say that the great carol was written by S. Bonaventure, a contemporary of St. Francis, in the 13th century.

Be that as it may, it is affirmed that the carol changed through the years, and was popular in Germany and France as early as the 17th century.

The earliest recorded words and melody of "Adeste Fidelis" are found in "Cantus Diversi", a collection of hymns (1750) by John Francis Wade.

The carols, hymns and songs that so enrich our Christmas season today are the products of many countries and many centuries.

This beautiful music came to America with the early settlers.

The Germans brought Luther's hymn for children, "Away In A Manger." "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" came from England. The French gave us "Cantique de Noel" or "O, Holy Night."

American composers began early to fill the roster of Christmas favorites.

In 1730, Charles Wesley, younger brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist denomination, wrote "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" was composed in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears.

Agawam Independent by Mail \$1.50 Per Year

Creche Tableau Illustrates Nativity

We do not know when the first creche was set up as a tableau to illustrate the nativity, but church records indicate that St. Francis of Assisi received special permission from the Pope to reconstruct the scene in the Bethlehem stable.

Today the crib, surrounded by figurines of the Holy Family, the Three Wise Men, shepherds, angels and farm animals, is to southern Europe and Catholic countries what the brightly decorated Christmas tree is to America.

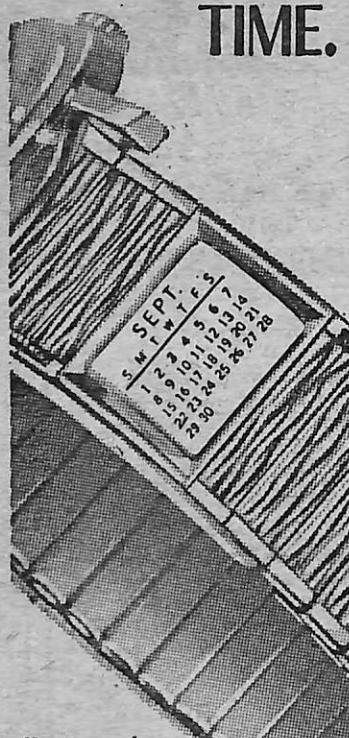
The Puritan Government banned the celebration of Christmas in England in 1643.



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The Agawam Independent Thursday, December 19, 1968 Page 9



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Peace and Joy

Our wish is that you may know all the joys of Christmas.

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Christmas Rose Began With A Tear

When Christ was born in Bethlehem kings from far-away lands came bearing gifts of great rarity and value. Everyone within sight and sound of the Event came and brought gifts of one kind or another . . . the shepherds brought little new-born lambs as their humble offering.

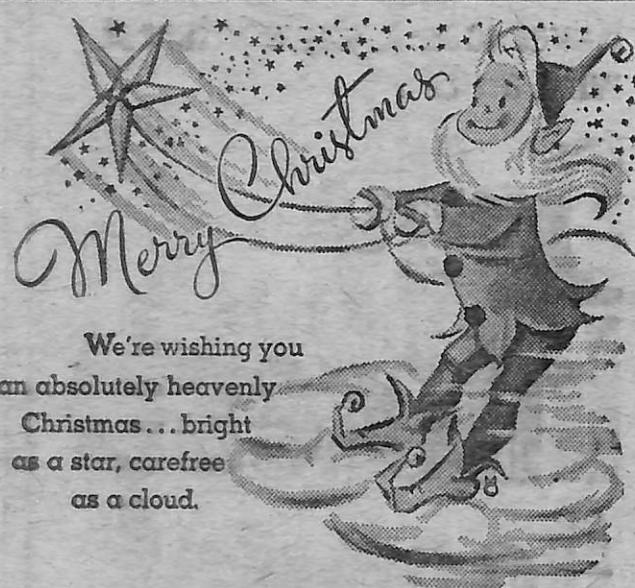
Off to a corner, unnoticed, huddled a little shepherdess, named Madelon, who wept because she had no gift for the Baby.

As her tears fell to the stable ground a miracle came to pass: small, lovely blooms sprang up among the tears; Madelon quickly gathered them and ran to show the Child the beautiful flowers.

Little Jesus touched the blooms with his tiny fingers and behold! the petals flushed rosy pink! This was the Christmas rose.

'Tis said that to this day, every year, when Christmas comes (and not until that day) the Christmas Rose blooms abundantly, in celebration of the Holy Birthday.

The Christmas Rose in itself is a great gift for the World, as it was on that hallowed day, many, many years ago . . . as was the Holy Child, to all mankind, for all time.



JOHN A. MacPHERSON

— UPHOLSTERER —

416 Springfield Street

Agawam

Today's Christmas 'Bedlam' Far Cry from Little 'Bethlehem'

Carols blaring forth from stores' loudspeakers on a busy shopping street . . . mixed and mingling to a near cacophony.

Corner Santa Clauses in many shapes and sizes ringing . . . tolling their bells, on street corners.

The noise of rock-and-roll from passing car radios.

Shoppers, mostly youngsters,

strolling by, a glazed look on their faces as they listen, rapt, to their pocket transistor radios.

The clatter of he "el" . . . the honking of impatient horns, the roar of the subway trains, the shrill call of children, the noise, the noise . . . the Bedlam of Christmas in a large American city, the year of our Lord, 1968.

A far cry from the beginnings of Christmas, in a little town of Bethlehem, almost 2000 years ago . . .

Later, in the 13th century in London, England, a hospital was built for care for the ill and indigent of the teeming city (even in the 13th century London had masses of people). The Hospital was called St. Mary of Bethlehem.

With the passing centuries the hospital became an asylum for the insane (using terms applicable to the times). Familiarity with the word "Bethlehem" had blurred the name until it was known as "Bethlehem."

By the time of Shakespeare the place was a horror, a symbol of abject squalor and inhumanity to the unfortunate who were consigned to its regions.

It was to take centuries more for men to regard mental illness as indeed an illness, not a condition which was the work of the Devil.

In the 16th century Bedlam was not a hospital administering healing to the suffering, it was a hell-hole where the inmates became lost, where their condition infinitely worsened by the cruellest neglect and abuse.

St. Mary must have wept!

As we of the 20th century move into this holy Season, let us keep in mind how, many, many years ago Bethlehem was corrupted into Bedlam, now the unearthly peace of that little town in Judea was mocked with agonizing conditions of man.

Let us remember the true Bethlehem, its real meaning, where long ago a star shone, a Child was born and angels sang of peace on earth and good will toward all men. Let us turn again to that true meaning.

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**MORUZZI RECEIVES
AERONAUTICAL DREE**

AUBURN, Ala. — Captain Frank D. Moruzzi, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Moruzzi of 62 Suffield St., Agawam, has been graduated from Auburn (Ala.) with a B.S. degree in aeronautical engineering.

The captain studied under the Air Force Institute of Technology program which provides selected Air Force members resident training in scientific, engineering and other fields at civilian institutions and industrial organizations.

Captain Moruzzi is being reassigned to Eglin AFB, Fla., as a member of the Air Force Systems Command.

He has served a tour of duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, 11 Air Medals, the Purple Heart and the Air Force Commendation Medal. The captain completed 146 missions in the F-4C Phantom jet.

Captain Moruzzi was commissioned in 1957 through the aviation cadet program. He also served during the Berlin airlift.

A graduate of Agawam High School, the captain has studied at Western New England College, Springfield.

His wife is the former Marlyse S. Witter from France.

**NEWMAN PARTICIPATED
IN BEEF TRUST**

USS ENTERPRISE at sea (FHTNC) — Storekeeper Third Class Robert E. Newman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Newman of 322 Meadow St., Aga-

wam, participated in operation "Beef Trust" aboard the nuclear-powered attack aircraft carrier USS Enterprise off the coast of Southern California.

The last major First Fleet exercise of the year, the eight-day exercise involved 28 ships and 31 air squadrons, including four Canadian units.

Designed to prepare U. S. units for the conditions encountered in Southeast Asia and throughout the Western Pacific, the exercise consisted of missile firing exercises, bombing practice, close air support and anti-submarine warfare.

Cruisers and destroyers fired their guns at the San Clemente Island Range and a target hull the ex-USS Jesse Rutherford, while guided missile ships tested their batteries against drone aerial targets in the Pacific Missile Range.

Carrier and land based aircraft flew strikes against the San Clemente Island Range, while the entire task force guarded against two U. S. submarines playing aggressors.

**PVT. POULOS
COMPLETES COURSE**

FT. BLISS, Tex. (AHTNC) — Private Emanuel Poulos, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Poulos, 36 Anthony St., Agawam, completed the eight-week Vulcan-Chapparal crewman course at the U. S. Training Center, Ft. Bliss, Tex., Nov. 22.

Chapparal and Vulcan are the names given to a new Army weapons system designed primarily for antiaircraft defense. The Chapparal consists of heat-seek-

**Ancient Romans Hailed
Dec. 25 As Sun's Birthday**

The sun has always had special significance for man through the ages.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that the sun figures in the selection of December 25th as the birthdate of the Christ.

It is common knowledge that the true date of Christ's birth has not yet been determined . . . but have you wondered why the 25th of December was selected to celebrate Christ's birth?

For a long time the 6th of January was celebrated as the day of the Nativity, and was not changed to the earlier date until about 375 A.D.

According to the Roman Julian calendar, the 25th of December was reckoned the winter solstice, and the birthday of the sun!

This was the day that the light lengthened and the powers of the sun once again grew strong.

It was a symbolic promise that once again the heat of the sun would make the grass grow, the cattle thrive, and all crops flourish.

The Christian Church felt that by turning the 25th of December sun festival into a Holy Day, they could convert many non-believers from their worship of the sun to Him who is called the "Son of Righteousness."

**Act of Mercy Began
Robin's Christmas Legend**

The robin, now considered a harbinger of spring, a century ago was a favorite Christmas motif on cards, and for decorative effect.

Legend connected the robin with Christ, and thus with Christmas.

The legend states that the bird, in trying to ease Christ's suffering on His way to the crucifixion, pulled a thorn from the

ing guided missiles mounted on a tracked vehicle. The Vulcan is a 22-mm automatic six-barrel gun mounted on a self-propelled armored personnel carrier.

His wife, Mary, lives at 39 Barn Road, Agawam.

crown. In doing so, a drop of blood fell on the robin's chest and remained there forever.

Comic robins, perky robins in all types of poses were pictured by the thousands of Christmas cards in the late 19th century.

December 17, 1903 — Pan American Aviation Day marking the first flight by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, N. C., in 1903.

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The Agawam Independent—Thursday, December 19, 1968 Page 11

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Christmas

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It's always been our pleasure to serve you, thanks to your loyalty and good will. We hope that your holiday season will be spent joyously in the company of those you hold dear. Merry Christmas!

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Merry Christmas

It's a very cheery Merry Christmas we're wishing all our fine customers, and an especially sincere "thanks" for your patronage

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Candles Light Up Man's Celebrations

It is difficult to imagine Christmastime without candles.

Long before Christ, man associated the light of the candle with his spiritual longings. The Old Testament refers to the candle often.

As civilization dawned, man came to guard the flames he discovered he could make by friction of sticks or flint. Crude torches let him hold the light a little longer and to lengthen his days so that he might pursue his labor and his quest for knowledge.

The Romans were probably the first to make candles, which they burned before the altars of their gods, to light their banquet rooms, and to light their pageants and carnivals. It is interesting to note that while pagan Rome used the candle for merry-making, the Christian martyrs used it to light the catacombs.

It was natural for Christians to adapt the candle to their way of life, for Christ had referred to Himself as the Light of the world. More, He had assured them that each Christian was a light.

The Middle Ages found the candle at its Zenith. Made of tallow, by the dipping process, the candle was widely used for light, on up till the 19th century.

The Medieval church made sure that candles were made of beeswax...an idea founded in the belief that bees came to earth

directly from heaven. Throughout the Middle Ages it was common for swarms of bees to be cared for near religious establishments.

Some of the candles of the Middle Ages were thick and tall; they rose over the heads of the people and cast a fairly strong light in a royal hall, or cathedral. These huge candles weighed as much as 300 pounds.

The custom of putting lighted candles on the tree came from Martin Luther's time, when hazards of fire from candles was an accepted risk, part of life itself.

VWWI CARD PARTY WINNERS

The third game in the present series of Whist Parties sponsored by the Veterans of World War One was held last Wednesday in the Agawam National Guard Armory. Winning door prizes were Philomene Blauvelt, Marion Damon, Florence Panareto, and Rose Noonan.

Mystery prize winners were Ann McLaughlin, Gladys Stone and Rhea Duclos. Ace prize winners were Viola Thayer for the ladies and Larry Duclos for men.

The following received high score prizes: Ladies — 1st Betty Allard, 2nd Emma Piacenza; 3rd Mary MacKay, 4th Marion Damon; Men — Gaston Allard, 2nd George Pierce, 3rd Larry Duclos, 4th Robert Damon.

The idea of lights on the tree is still cherished by modern man. One of Albert Schweitzer's books tells of a Christmas Day in a steaming jungle when a dying man begged for a Christmas tree with candles on it.

It is traditional that every family in Ireland have a candle in the home as a symbol of faith, to welcome the Christ and to invite strangers (who may be the Holy Infant with an earthly disguise).

In Italy a Christmas candle is kept burning in front of each creche during the Yule Season.

In Spain, the Christmas candle is placed over the doors of the faithful.

In the Southern Hemisphere Christmas is celebrated in mid-summer heat. They will have the traditional turkey dinner. Families often go to the seashore or the hills for a picnic.



Silent Night

We sing out warm greetings and best wishes for a very joyous Christmas!

Agawam Paint & Hardware

Samuel · Leah · Lionel
303 Walnut Street
Agawam



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Good cheer to our wonderful friends and customers. We're grateful to one and all.

F. C. TAPLIN CO.

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Christmas Greetings

PLACE YOUR HOLIDAY ORDERS EARLY



JOIN THE HAPPY TRIBE

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Regular Beverages

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8 Delicious

Low Calorie Flavors!

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To wish you a Blessed Christmas

May the joys of Christmas ring out, loud and clear to warm your heart anew.

ACE AUTO BODY

• 24-Hour Towing Service •

WE REPAIR
WRECKED CARS

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The Little Match Girl A CHRISTMAS STORY

One December day, a poor little girl trudged along a busy city street through cold, deep snow. She wore no shoes but on one foot she wore one man's large slipper which she had found in a trashcan. Her feet were red and raw in the bitter cold.

In her apron she carried many boxes of matches which she tried to sell to passersby.

The little girl was not having any luck, but she was afraid to go home, for her father had said he would beat her if she came home without money.

Now it was getting colder, the snow was coming down harder, a wind was whipping her threadbare scarf against her cheek.

She huddled in a corner between two buildings, trying to get warm.

She took a match from her apron and lighted it, to warm her numb fingers. How brightly it sputtered! In its light she seemed to see a big warm stove with pots bubbling happily.

But when the match burned out the beautiful scene disappeared.

She struck another match . . . and another,

and each time another lovely scene took shape before her eyes...tall taper candles which seemed to grow longer, rising higher.

The candles rose higher, until they became stars in the sky; then one of them fell.

"Oh!" she said to herself, "that falling star means someone is dying."

She struggled to light another match, then another . . . and suddenly, right in the midst of the bright glow was her dear mother who had died when the little girl was just a 3-year-old.

"Mother!" the little girl cried. "Mother! Please take me with you!"

Her mother gathered her into her arms, and together they rose high up to the sky, so high, there were angels hovering near, and the little girl sighed with joy.

In the morning, when busy shoppers hurried by they saw the little match girl huddled on the hard sidewalk, burned matches about her. She seemed to be sleeping, and a smile was on her lips.

ADAPTED FROM THE TALE BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

SOCIAL SECURITY
Lawrence Cunningham, Field Rep.

1. A disabled person under age 21 needs only 1½ years work to collect social security disability benefits.

2. A parent who cares for the children of their disabled or divorced children can gain social security coverage.

3. There are over 800 social security offices in the United States and its territories. **ital** targets in the Pacific Missile

4. Widows and divorced widows between ages 50 and 60 who are totally disabled may collect disability under social security.

5. Social Security pays more funds to students between ages 18-22 than all other sources of student aid.

6. A provision of the social security act is that widows can collect benefits at age 60.

7. Dependent widowers can collect social security benefits as

early as age 50 if totally disabled.

8. There are at least 60 medicare claims offices in the United States and a list can be obtained from your nearest social security office.

9. Medicare will not pay for services furnished by immediate relatives or members of the patient's household.

10. Hospital insurance of medicare will help pay for a bed in a semi-private room (2-4 beds) and all meals.

11. Medical insurance of medicare will pay for 100 home health visits in each calendar year: if confined at home; your doctor determines you need health care; and your doctor periodically reviews your home health plan.

12. Hospital insurance of medicare will pay for up to 100 home health visits for up to a year after your most recent discharge from a hospital or participating extended care facility.

Realism Reflected At Jerusalem

In the Middle East, where Christ lived, Christmas has a touch of realism. The patriarch comes from Jerusalem with a troop of cavalry in gorgeous array. The service lasts from 10 p.m. until long after midnight.

After the reading of the gospel the clergy and congregation leave the church and journey to the Grotto of the Nativity.

A RAWLEIGH DEALER NEVER LAID OFF. Some still serving after 25 to 40 years. Opening now in Agawam. Very profitable. Write Rawleigh, Dept. MAL-41-700, Box 340, Valatie, N.Y. 12184.

ANSWER AT ONCE. Man or woman to sell RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS. Good income. Write Rawleigh, Dept. MAL-71-402, Box 340, Valatie, N.Y. 12184.

January Blood Center Schedule

FRIDAY JAN. 3
Red Cross Chapter House
275 Maple St. - Springfield
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
* * *

THURSDAY, JAN. 9
Forbes & Wallace Auditorium
1414 Main St. - Springfield
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
* * *

MONDAY, JAN. 20
K of C #2212
63 Park Ave. - West Springfield
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
* * *

THURSDAY, JAN. 23
Moses Hall, Spfld. College
Alden St. - Springfield
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
* * *

For donor transportation and appointments call A.R.C.—
737-4306

My Neighbors



"You name it...we'll protest it..."

* * * Peace on earth * * *



A full measure of joy is our Noel wish for you!
Dalton Funeral Home
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Agawam

SHOE REPAIR
EXPERT SHOE REPAIR
Heavy Duty Farm Shoes
Children's and Men's Dress Shoes
Mike's Shoe Repair
Hours: Wed., Thurs., Fri.
6 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
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60 South Westfield Street
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FOR SALE
**Snow Plows
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• Chain Saws •
NELSON LaFRANCIS
Tel. 733-6438

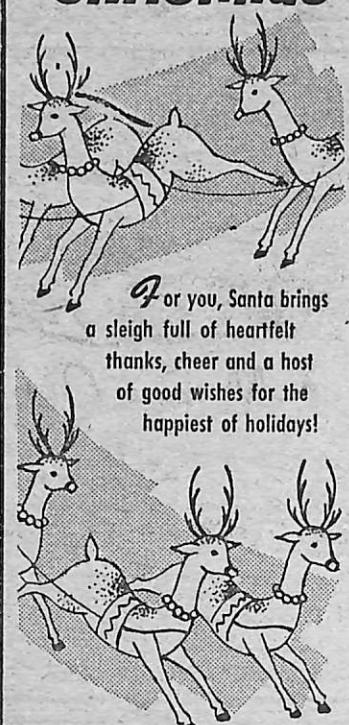


Our heartfelt thanks! May all of your gifts be wrapped in holiday spirit, your tree be decked with good things.

Ferranti's Package Store
1122 Memorial Avenue
West Springfield
Tel. 732-0505
• FREE DELIVERY •



All Good Wishes for Christmas



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Ideal position for a person with several years of inventory or record control experience. For more information, or interview,

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Holiday Greetings from the Management and Staff of DEE'S ULTRA MODERN BEAUTY SALON

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OPEN Mon., Tues. and Sat. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Thursday and Friday until 9 P.M.

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MAIL YULE CARDS TODAY!

To have your Season's Greetings delivered before Christmas, mail them today or tomorrow. To speed your Christmas Cards, Agawam Postmaster Robert R.

Deforge urges you to MAIL NOW and use ZIP Codes. Your ZIP Code is "01001." Always use it in your return address.

Enrico Caruso made his final performance at the Metropolitan Opera House on Dec. 24, 1920.



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Agawam



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Agawam

CHRISTMAS "LIQUOR" GIFTS



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JAMES MORAN, Prop.

COLLEGE NEWS

Alan C. Wein, son of Dr. and Mrs. Eber Wein of 98 Monroe St., Agawam, received his Varsity letter in football at Worcester Academy at the school's annual Fall Sports Night on Friday, Dec. 6. The varsity football team won 7 games and lost none.

Miss Joanne DeMont, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert DeMont, of 90 Albert St., and Miss Carol McLean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. McLean of 14 Greenacres Ln., both of Agawam, are among the 700 students from Keuka College, Keuka Park, N. Y., participating in the college's yearly fall Field Period. Miss DeMont is working with the American Red Cross, Springfield, and Miss McLean is employed at the South End Community Center, also in Springfield. Both girls, graduates of Agawam High School, are freshmen at Keuka.

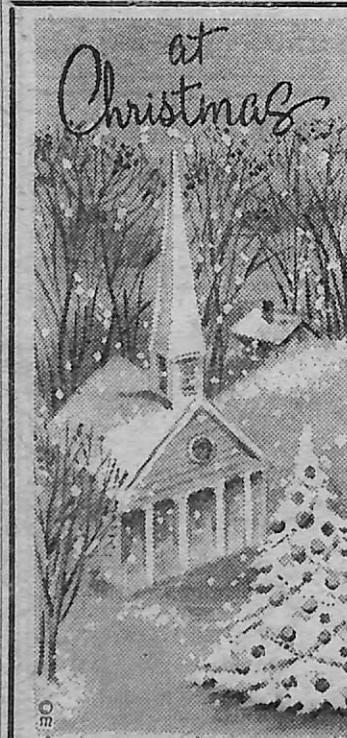
December 6, 1933 — The Volstead Act was repealed and customers bought the first legal alcoholic beverages in thirteen years.



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Tel. RE 6-6820

Next to Third National Bank — Agawam



May you enjoy

a truly Merry Christmas.

**Agawam
Discount
Sales Center**
1688 Main Street
Agawam

My Beat — A.H.S.

Jo-Ann Della-Giustina

visor Mrs. Nowak are making plans.

BOOK FAIR

The AHS library staff held its annual Book Fair last week. The fair was successful and provided a variety of books for every student. Because of the large response to the Fair, Mrs. Holmes, AHS librarian, will be able to purchase new books for our library.

COMING EVENTS: Basketball and hockey seasons have begun...Plans for our Winter Carnival are being made.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Printed Pattern



9379

SIZES 10 1/2-22 1/2

Printed Pattern 9379: NEW Half Sizes 10 1/2, 12 1/2, 14 1/2, 16 1/2, 18 1/2, 20 1/2, 22 1/2. Size 14 1/2 (bust 37) takes 2 3/8 yds. 45-in. SIXTY-FIVE CENTS in coins each pattern — add 15 cents for each pattern for 1st-class mailing and special handling. Send to 170 Newspaper Pattern Dept., 232 West 18th St., New York, N. Y. 10011. Send 50¢ for new Fall-Winter Pattern Catalog. Coupon inside good for One Free Pattern.

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Agawam



AGAWAM PET SHOP

381 Walnut St. Ext., Agawam 734-9240 or 739-5891

A Merry Christmas

Greetings and sincere wishes for a holiday season full of the warmth of a good, old-fashioned Christmas.



AGAWAM OIL CO.

Tel. 739-2409

Ancient Christian Church Looks Like Fortress

The oldest church in Christianity is reputed to be the church of the Nativity, built upon the

Yule Stories Span Many Years, Lands

Did you know that the first Christmas tree erected in a church in U. S., in 1851 shocked its Cleveland congregation. It was considered too heathenish!

America gave the world its most Beloved Christmas plant—the poinsettia. The plant is a native of tropical America.

Bayberry candles, which are said to foretell good luck for the coming year if they burn bright at Christmas, were first made by early settlers in America. They dipped bayberry branches in wax and burned them during the holidays.

The story is told that over a hundred years ago, a parish priest in Salzburg, Austria, returning late one night from administering last rites to a dying woman, was awed by the particular majesty of the still, sparkled-with-stars night; he went home, wrote the lovely, haunting words of "Silent Night, Holy Night." With his organist, Franz Gruber, playing the great music on his guitar, the Father Joseph Mohr, first introduced the strains of this popular hymn to a small congregation in Austria.

A churchman, John Pierpont, composed the gay Christmas song, "Jingle Bells," which has been popular for over a century.

The number of mince pies you taste at Christmas indicates the number of happy months you'll have during the coming year, according to an old English belief.

For three centuries following His birth, Christ's nativity was celebrated at various times in January, March, April, May, September, and October by Christian groups.

December 14, 1799 — George Washington, on his deathbed, said to his doctor, "I thank you for your attention; you had better not take any more trouble about me, but let me go off quietly."

spot where the stable stood. It was erected by Emperor Constantine the Great, in 330 A.D.

The church looks like a fortress. Its original stately portal has been walled up and replaced by a low and narrow entrance. There was a reason for this. In the first place, it compels the many pilgrims to bow before they enter. In the second place it was designed to keep the infidels from riding in on horseback or camel.

The interior of the church is dignified and simple, set off by beautiful Corinthian columns of native red sandstone. The roof is of massive oak. Silver lamps burning olive oil are suspended on gold and silver chains from the beams.

A silver star, fastened to a simple altar with silver nails, marks the exact spot where the Infant Jesus was born.

Three steps lead down to a small cave-like recess, the Chapel of the Manger. Beautiful tapestries and rugs are draped across the walls. Fifteen silver lamps are kept burning eternally in honor of Him, Who Christians believe, even today, is the light of the world.

The sling shot, used by men as a weapon, and referred to in the

Ceremonies 'round World Celebrate Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, is marked with many customs, ceremonies and legends throughout the world. French and Swiss children, for example, look forward to the pastry they receive on that day, in which a bean, coin or china figure is hidden. Whoever gets the prize, is crowned king of the family.

Epiphany means "appearance" and commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men to the Infant Jesus. Their arrival was proof to believers that Christ the Saviour was born.

During the Middle Ages, Epiphany or Twelfth Night was commemorated with plays presented in churches. Solemn observances largely disappeared in Elizabethan England, and this became a time for revelry.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"

Toys Part of Human Living Long Before 'Civilization'

Where did the toys that children love so much such as dolls, kites, blocks, etc... come from?

Records and archeological excavations show that children have been playing with dolls, and many other toys we still see today, since many thousands of years ago.

The Egyptians were perhaps the first to have dolls. These were not idols, they were strictly items to entertain the children.

Kites originated in the Orient. At one time kite flying was a national sport in China.

Blocks, which were once called building bricks first appeared minus any decoration. Most were somewhat larger than the average ones today.

Generally as soon as something new appears for adults, it is duplicated in miniature for children. It was not too many years after the first appearance of the locomotive that a child's replica was designed. The earliest steam engine, however, far preceded this... records show a reference to it as far back as 150 years before the birth of Christ.

The sling shot, used by men as a weapon, and referred to in the

Bible as David's weapon, has been a toy for centuries, too.

Children's tastes have changed little since ancient times. A look at the toy collection in the British Museum would prove that. In fact, it would not be advisable to take the children there before Christmas — they'd find too many toys to ask for!

"Come Where the ACTION Is"

LOOK → SKATING PLUS DANCING ← LOOK

RIVERSIDE ROLLAWAY

Riverside Park - Rt. 5A - Agawam

Prizes • Games • Fun for All

Christmas Party - Dec. 21 - Sat. Eve.

7:30 P.M. to 11 P.M.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY — 7:30 P.M. to 10 P.M.

SOCK PARTY — 10 P.M. to 11 P.M.

Live Band • Admission \$1.00

VACATION SCHEDULE

— CLOSED —

DEC. 23, 24 and 25

— OPEN —

DEC. 26, 27 and 28

Matinee 1-4 P.M.

Evening 7:30 to 10:30 P.M.



reflects this mood. Historians say

it was probably presented in a

command performance at White-

hall Palace on January 6, 1601.

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V.F.W. Post 1632 and Auxiliary Bulletin

By ANNA D. BISSONNETTE

CARNIVAL

The carnival held jointly between the Agawam and Southwick Posts at Leeds Hospital was a complete success according to Past Commanders Toimi Tammi, Tet Gimminnani, Brady Snyder and Frances and Adam Link who helped service the hospital. Everyone there raved about the Christmas cookies made especially for this occasion by Katy Dickinson, who donated not only her time, service but all ingredients as well. To make sure all was in readiness the puzzle and cookies were delivered the night before.

DECORATION SALE

Dec. 13 — Friday night was a beautiful evening with a happy, warm, friendly atmosphere and Christmas decorations of all kinds and descriptions filled the VFW Home. Those of you who were unable to make this sale missed some unusual and glamorous decorations. Many folks remained to eat clams and other goodies served by Venetta Snyder and Katy Dickinson. The Ladies of the Auxiliary take turns so come on down and help build up our worthy funds.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec. 15th — Bright-faced youngsters waited and watched joyously until a red-faced jovial SANTA CLAUS (in the shape of Comdr. Edward Harpin) arrived at the VFW Childrens' Christmas Party at the Agawam Motor Lodge. Running around getting the children as they arrived were a nimble clown and an old hobo who normally are quite dignified and correct as Sr. Vice Comdr. Ed Netkovick and QM Bib Bissonnette. The antics of these two NON-PROFESSIONALS? — kept the group of children and their parents in stitches. They behaved in such a manner as to arouse much amusement and laughter. While mimicking the magician their facial expressions were really something to see. The whistles and balloons they distributed kept the kids busy until the issuance of gift bags to each and every one of them. Candy canes, filled candy stockings, fruits, cookies and gifts filled the bags and every child seemed extremely happy with the soda, cookies, and ice cream that were served. . . second helpings could be had. The skilled magician, Robert Switzer kept them entranced for another hour with his sleight of hand tricks. He called for participants from the audience and many children answered the call. He took two ladies, Beulah Hocker and Ethel Ruele for the great act of TYING them together and they would be there STILL had he not released them.

The musical compositions rendered vocally were lead by Bib Bissonnette who sang with gusto. Accordion selections were by Joseph Dynia and Mathew Bonk. Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. G. Hooper and their four children. Mr. Hooper has just returned from Vietnam and a guest at the Motel.

Each child was given a number and the lucky ones, Tom Dias and Gregory Hooper were given a sled each. A beautiful Christmas centerpiece was won by Mrs. Richard Adelman who immediately relinquished it as this was a decoration she had made and do-

nated. . . lucky this time was P. C. Brady Snyder.

Working on decorating, packing gifts and putting up the tree on Saturday evening were Chairmen Ed Netkovick and Katy Dickinson, Co-chairman Anna D. Bissonnette, President Emily Dias, Past President Venetta Snyder, Ricky Adelman, Donna Hulse, Bib Bissonnette, Gus Hocker, Qizzie Inman, Roland and Ethel Ruele, Jim, Anna and Kathy Hayes. On Sunday came the breakdown and clean-up which included the same group. We wish to thank all who helped in any way and those who donated fruit, cookies, sleds, tree and the use of the hall. May the GOOD LORD treat you well. . .

LITTLE BITS

Karen, daughter of members Betty and Don Curran was one of the girls selected to sing in the Western Massachusetts District Chorus next January at the Cathedral High School. Three pupils from the local school have been selected to try out for membership in the Massachusetts ALL STATE Chorus Concert at Plymouth in March.

Thanks to all who remembered me on Dec. 15th with gifts and cards. Special thanks to the James Hayes of Adam St., who had us at their beautifully decorated home for a dinner party. A cake was made specially for me. What a nice way to say "Happy Birthday, Anna. (from Anna to Anna).

Correction of the Garrison's zip code number—it's 90807 Long Beach, Calif.

Only 36 more members for 100% membership — ARE YOU ONE OF THESE?

IMPORTANT

Dec. 21—CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ADULTS—at the Post Home on South St.—ALL members of Post and Auxiliary are invited to come. Auxiliary members please contact Betty Curran, RE 3-3909 in regards to the kind of HOT dish you are to bring and the TIME. EVERYONE attending must bring a \$1 exchange gift—(in order to get one you must bring one).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Kissing Ball Old Custom

Among the more popular aspects of a secular celebration is the Kissing Ball.

Many years ago every home featured at least one of these beautiful decorations, hung from an archway or chandelier.

The Kissing Ball was sometimes a pomander, sometimes a blown egg, sometimes a ball of cotton.

The ball is brightly painted or gilded, wrapped with ribbon and braid, and set with mock jewels, sparkling beads and sequins.

A ribbon suspends two or three in place and a sprig of mistletoe is secured at the top.

Young ladies who pass beneath may expect a kiss from some daring swain who waits nearby.

Agawam Independent by Mai
\$1.50 Per Year

Advertising and News Deadline

Advertisements and news copy for all December issues must be received on or before the previous Monday.

States Claim Yule Plants

Santa Claus, Indiana is the most famous of all towns bearing names associated with Christmases.

Except for a coincidence, the name of the town may have been any of a number of less colorful names.

Originally, the name desired was Santa Fe, but officials in Washington suggested the town be given another name, since there was already a Santa Fe in New Mexico.

On Christmas Eve, 1882, the townspeople gathered to select another name, but one name after another was rejected, until "Santa Claus" strode into the meeting to get warm. He was in costume, and with his arrival everyone knew what the name of the town would be—Santa Claus, Indiana!

Country's Freedom Christmas Gift, Too

The foundation for the preservation of the freedom to celebrate such Christian beliefs as Christmas — this was the gift to our country on that very day in December 1776.

It happened when George Washington and his men won the battle at Trenton, Pa. That was the beginning of a long line of victories that eventually led to ultimate victory and total independence.

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HEREWITH
 BILL ME

Agawam Independent
375 WALNUT STREET
AGAWAM, MASS. 01001

Please Print Clearly

Street Address

Signed _____
SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

Agawam Pet Shop
381 Walnut St. Ext.
Agawam
734-9240 or 739-5891

